

between the bigots and their antagonists. An aggressive and incorrigible heretic, like Louis Berquin at Paris, or Jean de Caturce at Toulouse, was occasionally burned. Nicolas Cop, the reforming rector of the University of Paris, and his friend, John Calvin, were driven into exile, the one for preaching, the other for writing an outspoken, reforming sermon towards the end of 1533.

Nevertheless, reason and policy might have continued to thwart the truculent bigotry of Sorbonne and Parliament, had not the zeal of some of the heretics outrun their discretion. In October 1534 an angry fanatic had the hardihood to affix a placard denouncing the mass and the pope in the most violent language to the door of the royal chamber at Amboise. Francis saw in this senseless act an insult to his own majesty as well as to the Church. He vindicated both by walking in solemn procession on the 29th January 1535 to Notre Dame, and giving the signal for a holocaust of six heretics, who were suspended from a gallows over blazing faggots and slowly roasted to death. Even after this exhibition of orthodox ferocity, Francis is found vacillating for a couple of years towards moderation. He urged Melancthon to visit Paris and bring about a reconciliation between Lutherans and Catholics. He suspended persecution and granted a conditional amnesty. "The prospects of the gospel in France/' wrote Sturm, "were never so hopeful." The illusion was of short duration. The conference with Charles V. at Aigues Mortes in 1538 threw Francis definitely on the side of repression, converted him into the steady champion of the reaction which was to stem the tide of reform and win back the ground lost to the Roman Church. A shower of persecuting edicts in 1539, 1540, 1542, 1543, culminated in the horrible outrage in the Vaudois valleys in 1545. The humanist was swallowed up in the bigot, and failing health towards the end of his career made of the bigot a bloody tyrant. According to M. Martin, three towns and twenty-two villages were destroyed, 3,000 persons—men, women, children—murdered, 252 executed after a mock trial, from 600 to 700 sent to the galleys, a large number of children sold as slaves. Not the least horrible feature of the savage business is the fact that Pope Paul IV. rewarded Baron D'Oppede, the monster who